

# California Transportation Commission

## Committee on Mass Transportation

### Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2003  
Sacramento

The meeting came to order at 12:03 pm. Present were Co-chairs McKenna and Tavaglione and Commissioner Torres.

#### **1. Presentation on Upcoming Legislation – INFORMATION –**

State Legislation: Josh Shaw, CA. TRANSIT ASSOCIATION, presented CTA's 2003 Legislative proposals that have statewide impact. He discussed funding priorities and policy improvements. In general, CTA discussed proposed legislations to authorize new funding sources, provide more flexibility on existing funding sources, and changing current statutes on lease/leaseback financing, TDA/STA eligibility criteria, tax increment financing for transit districts, and operational efficiencies. Regarding new funding sources, CTA discussed SB 541 – index gas tax to CPI and increase gas tax to backfill TCRP, AB 1065 – doubles ¼ cent sales tax revenues for operators and AB 1500 – assesses per barrel fee on oil for transportation programs. In terms of changing existing funding sources, CTA discussed SCA 2 – requiring only a simple majority for local transportation sales tax proposals, SCA 7 – adds an interest requirement to the requirement that transportation funds be repaid, ACA 7 – lowers the vote threshold from 2/3 to 55% for local transportation sales tax. Policy legislation included discussions regarding SB 760 – leaseback financing, AB 813 – excluding certain extraordinary costs from TDA/STA eligibility criteria, and SB 465 and AB 1320 – permitting tax increment financing for transit oriented development. Changes to operational efficiencies AB 557 – “yield to bus” demo program, and AB 839 – reducing storage requirement of video tape were also discussed.

Federal Legislation: Liz O'Donahue of Amtrak presented a status report on the recently adopted Federal Budget for FFY 2002-03, as well as how well the California intercity rail services were doing. Amtrak received \$1.05 billion of the \$1.2 billion from the Omnibus Spending bill plus flexibility on payback of the \$100 million loan Amtrak had received last summer from U.S. DOT. Ms O'Donahue stated that Amtrak was facing a crossroads as what would happen to the agency.

Ms O'Donahue reported that Amtrak is seeking \$ 1.812 billion in federal operating (\$768 million) and capital (\$1.04 billion) in the FY 2003- 04 federal budget. The \$1.8 billion funding level is needed to reverse years of deferrals on infrastructure and equipment needs. Ms O'Donahue stated that it seemed likely that Amtrak's re-authorization would be part of the TEA –21 re-authorization. She stated that Amtrak is working to convince states to follow the west coast model and begin providing funds for operations and capital improvements. Ms O'Donahue felt that the TEA – 21 re-authorization would contain language requiring local participation from the states.

#### **2. Outline for Transit and Rail White Papers – INFORMATION**

Robert Chung, CTC staff, presented a draft outline for the transit white paper. The intent of the white paper is to provide a record of the upcoming issues and accomplishments for the Commission's Annual Report. The Committee would review each chapter and provide staff guidance regarding the direction of the white paper. Staff would present the outline for the intercity rail at a future meeting.

Hearing no other matters, the Committee adjourned at 12:55 pm.